NOES—22.

17. Mr. T. W. U. Park
18. Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai
19. Mr. Kevi Varma Valia Raja
20. Mr. A. N. Satyanesan
21. Mr. V. S. Veeriah Reddiar and
22. Mr. M. K. Velu Pillai

NEUTRALS—5.

1. Mr. Shahul Hameed
2. Mr. P. Gopalan
3. Mr. G. Revi Varma
4. Mr. V. N. Padmanabha Pillai
5. Sahib Bahadur M. Mahomed Mustafa.

The motion was lost 5 voting for, 22 against and 5 remaining neutral.

Resolution re. P. W. D. Expenditure.

Mr. K. C. Chandy: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :—

"This Council recommends to Government that the P. W. D. expenditure in every year be so regulated that at least five per cent of the total revenue from each taluk is spent on communications and new works in that taluk."

Sir, I do not propose to speak at length in support of the explanation of this resolution. There is a complaint that the country parts are neglected, that the P. W. D. does not bestow any attention to the needs of the country parts. Many a time we hear on the floor of the Council complaints regarding the non-maintenance of roads, non-construction of bridges and non-opening of necessary communications in country parts. At the same time there is a complaint that the major portion of the revenue is spent in beautifying the metropolis. It is to safeguard the interests of the country parts that I have tabled this resolution and I commend it for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Paul A. Thaliath: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ വടക്കേ അറ്റത്തു കിടക്കുന്ന പറവൂർ കുന്നത്തുനാട് ഈ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ സഞ്ചാര സൗകര്യത്തിനു യോഗ്യമായ റോഡുകൾ ഇല്ല. വില്ലേജ് റോഡുകളും ഇല്ല, ഉള്ള റോഡുകൾ നന്നാക്കുന്നുമില്ല, ഗതാഗതത്തിനുവേണ്ട സൗകര്യം തീരെ ഇല്ല, എന്നിങ്ങനെയുള്ള ധാരാളം പരാതികൾ കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ

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ഞാൻതന്നെ കൊണ്ടു വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ തത്ത്വത്തെ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് അടിക്കുന്ന പക്ഷം ഈ വക പരാതികൾ കൂടാതെ കഴിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിന്റെ തത്ത്വത്തെ ഓർത്തു് ഞൻ ഇതിനെ പൂർണ്ണമായി അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkitakrishnan: Government have every sympathy with the resolution. They are as anxious as anybody in improving the village communications of the State. While it will be very difficult to bind them to a definite figure of 4 or 5 per cent., they are in full sympathy with the spirit of the resolution. It will be found that if the sort of principle contemplated in the resolution is applied, the taluks that will be most hit are the taluks on whose behalf the resolution now originates. I have a statement which shows the funds allotted and spent in the northern taluks. Alwaye Division Rs. 5,80,000, Kottayam Division Rs. 6,28,000, Quilon Division Rs. 4,51,000, Trivandrum Division Rs. 4,18,000 and Nagercoil Division Rs. 2,71,000.

Mr. K. C. Chandy: Is it for new works or maintenance?

Dewan Bahadur L. Venkitakrishnan: It is under maintenance and improvement.

It will thus be found that if we accept the resolution as it is worded, the very taluks which plead for the resolution being accepted would be most hardly hit. I would, on behalf of Government, assure honourable members that we have every sympathy with the village roads. We are working a scheme by which we will be able to give satisfaction to every village. With this assurance I would request the honourable member to withdraw his resolution.

President: Government are now convinced that much more attention should be paid to village roads and communications and to smaller irrigation sources than in the immediate past. The main difficulty with regard either to the enlargement or maintenance of roads or the improvement and maintenance of irrigation sources may be described to be two-fold. Very often questions of acquisition occur and delays occur in those acquisitions so that notwithstanding the fact that local sentiment is strongly in favour of a particular scheme, the scheme is very often delayed if not completely hampered or put on one side. A more important and a more comprehensive difficulty has been the question of the P. W. D. taking up the construction and maintenance of roads and irrigation sources to an extent really beyond the capacity of their present or future usefulness. As has been stated elsewhere, I wish to re-emphasise to-day that the whole question of reconstruction of village roads will have a re-orientation. Village roads will be constructed by the village people and maintained by the village people subject

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[President.]

to the supervision, and only the supervision, of the P. W. D. whose main task will be to see that the standards are maintained with regard to the construction of the roads and that the maintenance work is adequately conducted. For that purpose, the department has been instructed and those instructions are well understood by the department that as far as possible, local personnel must be utilised and not departmental agencies.- Officers, engineering talents of retired engineers engineering supervisors living in the locality and also people who have command over the labour of the locality,—these will join together either in a co-operative organisation or preferably a joint stock organisation and to them, without any hesitation, Government will hand over the construction and the maintenance of these smaller or less vital communications. Similar though not entirely identical methods, can be pursued in regard to irrigation.

It has also to be made clear by Government that there is no question hereafter of lapse of funds. A certain sum will be allotted both under current budget and in the Post-war Reconstruction Scheme for various purposes. Neither the current budget amount nor the Post-war Reconstruction Fund will lapse so that there will not be, I trust, in future, this spectacle of nothing being done for the first ten months and some work being rushed through in the last two months so that the money allotted in the budget may be spent somehow and someway. In place of that system a three-year plan has been devised for all this expenditure. In other words whatever amount is not spent in one year under one head will be taken forward to the credit of that item for the next year and a bird's-eye-view will be taken after the operations of three years. Therefore there are the methods of local engineering and enterprise being harnessed, the supervision by the P. W. D. and the prevention of the lapses of grants. With these and with the necessary drive, I think, the present grievances would be soon remedied,—at all events, it is hoped so.

Mr. K. C. Chandy: In view of the statement by the Chief Engineer that the Government is in sympathy with the principle of this resolution and also in view of the elucidation of the policy by the Chair, I beg permission of the House to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution, by leave, was withdrawn.

President: The business for the Session being finished, the House is adjourned *sine die*.

The House adjourned *sine die* at 3-30 P. M.

S. VAIDYANATHA AIYAR,
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.

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